

MINUTES

OF THE

ANNUAL SESSION,

OF THE

CHEROKEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION;

HELD AT

MOUNT PLEASANT CHURCH,

ST. CLAIR COUNTY, ALA.:

On the 19th, 20th and 21st of October, 1851.



Printed at the Office of the "SUNNY SOUTH,"

JACKSONVILLE, ALA.:

1851.



MINUTES.

1. The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. JAS. A. REEVES, from 133rd Salms of David, 1st verse.
2. The Association was then called to order; Eld. W. C. Mynatt in the chair.
3. Received and read letters from the different Churches composing the Association, and minuted their reports.
4. Constitution and By-Laws called for and read.
5. Opened a door for the reception of Churches, and received Mount Harmony Church, DeKalb county, Alabama, and the delegates invited to take seats. [See Statistics.]
6. Elected Eld. W. C. Mynatt, *Moderator*, and F. M. Hardwick, *Clerk*.
7. Received a letter of correspondence and minutes from the Tallasehatchee Association, borne by Elds. H. H. Ware and Woodruff, the messengers invited to seats.
8. Appointed the following committees, viz: To arrange Preaching, from the Church Brethren Neely and Bowlin; from the body McBrayer, Harkrider and Huely. On the state of Religion, Brethren Williamson, Reeves and Bell. On domestic Mission, Brethren Penn, Appleton and Ramsey. On correspondence, Brethren Golightly, Goggin and Stowers. On Sabbath schools, Brethren Williams, Hawkins and Whitton. On Finance, Smith, Dalimple and Eaton. On Temperance, the Clerk, Bishop and Golightly.
9. On motion adjourned until Saturday, 9 o'clock, P. M.

Saturday morning, 9 o'clock; met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Eld. W. Penn.

10. Appointed brethren James Fields and John Renfro corresponding delegates to the Tallassehatchee Association. Bro. N. Appleton to write.
11. Appointed Union Meetings; viz: 1st District, Mill Creek, Cherokee county, Ala., Friday before the 1st Sabbath in July, 1852. 2^d District, Pleasant Grove, DeKalb county, Ala., Friday before the 3^d Sabbath in July, 1852. 3^d District, Pleasant Hill, DeKalb county, Ala., Friday before the 1st Sabbath in August, 1852, and Eld. W. C. Mynatt appointed to preach a Missionary Sermon, introductory to that meeting.
12. Appointed Eld. W. Penn to preach the next introductory sermon, Eld. R. H. Ramsey his alternate.
13. Our next Association will convene with the Cedar Bluff Church, Cherokee county, Ala., on Friday before the third Sabbath in Sept. 1852, and Eld. W. C. Mynatt appointed to preach a Missionary sermon on Sabbath, at the close of which a public collection in favor of the Southern Board will take place.
14. Appointed Elders J. A. Reeves and W. C. Mynatt, Jas. Fields, J. Lawrence and J. Renfro delegates to the Baptist State Convention. Bro. Hardwick to write.
15. Called for the reports of Committees, which were severally read and adopted.—Exhibite; A., B., C., D., E., G., H.
16. Ordered that the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association and a copy of the Circular Letter, of 1843 be attached to this minute.
17. Ordered that the following donations to the Southern Board, with the names annexed, be entered upon the minutes, viz:

Geo. Harkrider,	\$2 50	H. O. Golightly,	\$2 00
G. J. Williamson,	2 00	T. N. Appleton,	1 00
M. G. Williams,	2 00	W. C. Mynatt,	5 00
F. M. Hardwick,	2 50	Jeremiah Morgan,	50
		W. B. Neely,	1 00
			<hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: 0; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>
			\$18 50

18. Called for corresponding letters, received, read and adopted; the letter to the Tallassehatchee Association.

19. Ordered that the Moderator, Clerk, and Williamson, write the letter to the Baptist State Convention in vacation.

20. Ordered that the delegates to the Tallassehatchee Association be allowed three dollars each, and the balance of the money contributed for minutes and Association purposes, be used for the printing of the minutes, and the Clerk's services for superintending the same.

21. Ordered that 500 copies of these minutes be printed and the Clerk superintend the printing the same.

22. Appointed distributing agents. 1st district, Bro. A. Hawkins; 2d district, Bro. T. N. Appleton; 3d district, Bro. B. Smith.

23. Appointed Executive committees: 1st district, brethren H. O. Golightly, C. Prieket and F. M. Hardwick. 2d district, brethren T. N. Appleton, Dal-rimble and Goggin. 3d district, brethren B. Smith, J. T. McBrayer and W. B. Neely;—and said committees be empowered to collect funds for the *Home Mission*, and appoint agents to do likewise as they may deem expedient.

24. Ordered that the original executive committee be, and they are hereby required to pay over all monies in their hands, and subscriptions for money, to the several committees of each district, when the same has been subscribed, to be disposed of as they may direct.

On Sabbath the stand was occupied by Bro. Eaton, Elders W. C. Mynatt and Renfro, who preached to a an attentive congregation, and the word preached we hope will be like bread cast upon the waters, the fruits of which will be gathered many days hence.

25. *Resolved*, That our gratitude is due to God, and that we tender our thanks to the citizens of Mount Pleasant Church, for the kind hospitality bestowed on us during our stay among them.

Prayer by the brother Moderator. Adjourned.

W. C. MYNATT, *Moderator.*

F. M. HARDWICK, *Clerk.*

A.

The committee on the state of Religion offer the following report: After noticing the statistics of the several Churches, we are made to lament the coldness of many of them; but the travel of some lead us to hope that the Lord has began a good work within our bounds, and will carry it on until the perfect day. Respectfully submitted.

J. A. REEVES.

B.

We your committee to whom was refered the subject of Domestic Missions beg leave to make the following report: The destitution in the Bounds of this Association is such, and the members of the same have been informed of this important fact from time to time, in so much that a reiteration of the same, would, in this report, be superfluous; the success of our cause gives us great encouragement to carry on the goodly began work. All of which we respectfully submit.

WM. PENN, Ch.

C.

Your committee on correspondence beg leave to report: From the reading of the letter and minutes from the Tallassehatchee Association, we recommend a continuance of correspondence with them. The Coosa Baptist Association again failing to send up any correspondence, we view it useless to make any further effort to keep up a correspondence with them. Resolved, therefore, by this body that correspondence be dropped. All of which we respectfully submit.

HENRY O. GOLIGHTLY.

D.

Your committee on Sabbath schools are disposed to believe that in most

of our towns and villages, Sabbath schools are established and in operation ; but in the country Churches very few are in successful operation, and we, your committee, think that it is for the want of efficient efforts on the part of the brethren to establish and keep it in a healthy condition in every Church, these nurseries of education are too much neglected. Your committee refer this want of success to a number of causes, such as an undue estimate of its importance by Superintendants, Teachers and others concerned, and a consequent want of zeal and self sacrificing labor in pushing it forward in every neighborhood and vicinity.

Resolved, That this Association regard well established and conducted Sabbath schools as one of the most efficient means in the hands of the christian church, of training up the rising generation for usefulness and enjoyment of society, both social and religious. Respectfully submitted.

M. G. WILLIAMS, Ch'man.

E.

Your committee on Finance beg leave to report as follows :

Mount Pleasant,	\$7 59	\$1 25	Providence,	\$1 10
Mount Harmony,		75	Pleasant Fall,	1 00
Bethany,	Ass. Pur.	2 55	Unity, Ass. Pur.	2 00 1 35
Mill Creek,	" " 1 50	1 00	Ples't Grove,	2 75 1 25
Yellow Creek,	" " 1 00	1 00	Union,	1 45
Monticello ;		15	Lebanon,	1 50 1 00
"			Cedar Bluff,	1 35 1 35
				<hr/>
				\$10 85 \$15 30
				10 85
				<hr/>
				\$26 15

All of which is Respectfully submitted.

J. COATS, Ch'man.

G.

Your committee on Temperance report as follows : Since our last meeting of this body, there is certainly a manifest advance in this great and good cause, the opposition is still weakening and giving way, notwithstanding the number of accessions has not greatly increased, but the members and friends of that institution appear to stand firm in the cause, there seems to be nothing wanting to secure success, but for Christians to lend their aid, and press forward with energy, useing all lawful means in their power, in so doing final success will eventually be the effect. Respectfully submitted.

F. M. HARDWICK, Chairman.

H.

We your committee to whom you confided the subjet of Domestic Missions, would make the following report : Much has been done and much yet remains to be done before we can make anything like a satisfactory report. We have had engaged in the service through the past year, the labors of our brethren Penn and Fields, with seemingly a good effect. Some portions have been beautifully blessed with glorious revivals ; and many, we hope have been brought into the fold of God, and as yet we have only heard of one refusal of religious instruction, but on the other hand the cry is, come again, and brethren, in closing this, our report, we would most earnestly recommend, if you wish the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom, and prosperity of the Churches, continue this great cause. The Labor done are as follows :

First Quarter, by Bro. Fields ; labored 64 days, preached 27 sermons, 18 exhortations, 19 family lectures, and traveled 410 miles.

Second Quarter, by Bro. Penn, 46 sermons, 9 exhortations, and traveled 413

miles; assisted in the ordination of one Deacon. Two last by Bro. Fields, preached 122 sermons, 54 exhortations, and 94 family visits, and traveled 1,111 miles, and are to receive for their labors \$15 00 per month. The amount subscribed and paid in is as follows:

<i>Cedar Bluff.</i>		T. N. Appleton and Lady,	7 50
George Harkrider,	\$5 00	J. Brock,	2 00
Austin Hawkins,	2 00	J. M. Mitchell,	5 00
H. Turnei,	3 00	James D. Sineard,	2 00
J. Reed,	5 00	Rev. James Fields,	5 00
J. Lawrence,	1 00	<i>Union.</i>	
J. Renfro,	50	J. Teague,	5 00
A. G. Whit,	1 00	Jamimah Stephens,	5 00
Bro. Canada,	50	J. Coats,	5 00
F. M. Hardwick,	5 00	L. Stephens,	3 00
W. B. Watt,	5 00	R. Hood,	1 00
G. J. Williamson,	2 00	Mrs. E. Dalrymple,	1 00
A. Baber,	50	S. Penn,	1 00
R. H. Hardwick,	50	J. T. Coats,	1 00
J. Bankston,	20	Josiah Teague,	1 00
<i>Yellow Creek.</i>		O. Hester,	2 00
D. A. Herfner,	5 00	W. Penn,	2 00
W. S. Whithman,	2 00	A. B. Smith,	3 00
J. Lay,	50	<i>Bethany.</i>	
<i>Unity Church.</i>		H. Shephard,	50
J. Little,	2 00	<i>Lsanon.</i>	
C. Prickett,	2 00	J. L. Cunningham,	50
S. J. Williams,	1 00	Isaac Green,	5 00
Donation from Unity Church,	7 00	F. T. Holly,	1 00
<i>Mill Creek Church.</i>		Rec'd of A. Hawkins, from	
H. O. Golightly,	5 00	Lebanon, 1850,	
W. S. Pitts,	2 00	P. M. Turner,	5 00
Public Collection,	4 45	J. Green,	5 00
<i>Providence Church.</i>		J. J. Clanton,	3 00
C. P. Johnson,	5 00	L. Perry,	1 95
J. Glazner,	5 00	Mercer Thompson,	2 00
H. H. Dalrymple,	3 00	<i>Mount Harmony.</i>	
S. Waldrop,	3 00	E. T. Goggins,	2 00
L. B. Lorch,	2 00	G. W. Crow.	1 00
Thos. Dalrymple,	1 00	<i>Cedar Bluff—continued.</i>	
<i>Pleasant Grove.</i>		Paid Bro. Penn for services,	\$45 00
Rev. W. C. Mynatt,	10 00	Paid Bro. Fields,	\$135 00
G. Appleton and Lady,	12 50		

All of which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

H. O. GOLIGHTLY, Chairman,

T. N. APPLETON, Secretary,

JOHN COATS, Treasuer,

GEORGE HARKRIDER,

TMOMAS HAMMACH,

Committee.

It is further recommended by your Committee to appoint three in each district, and they act as an Executive Committee, and they be empowered to raise funds and carry out the design of the Association in their respective Districts, and report at the next Association.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES.	NEAREST P. O.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	AS. PUR.	
			BY WHOM SUPPLIED.	
FIRST DISTRICT.				
Cedar Bluff, Cherokee Co.	Cedar Bluff,	G Harkrider, Wm Son, A Hawkins & Hardwick	Mynatt,	125 10 20 135
Yellow Creek, " "	Lonesburg,	W S Whitton and William Bishop,	do	100 50 100
Unity, "	" "	C Pricket, E Willingham and H Hurly,	Coffman,	1 100 50 100
Mill Creek, "	" "	H O Golightly, W. S. Pitts, * E G Bell,	Mynatt,	135 700 200
2d DISTRICT.				
Providence, DeKalb Co.	Van Buren,	J Glazner, * C P Johnson, * and H H Dalrymple,	W Penn,	2 20 20 22 1 0 1 97 7
Pleasant Grove, "	do	W C Mynatt, J Fields and T N Appleton,	Mynatt,	3 13 0 12 2 0 2 94 4
Antioch, "	" "	Not represented.	Eaton,	125 0 275
Monticello, "	" "	G W Eaton, R Comer, * and J B Baily, *		
Mt. Harmony, "	" "	E T Goggin, W G Crow and J Morgan,		
3d DISTRICT.				
Union, DeKalb Co.	Duck Spgs.	W Penn, J A Reeves and A B Smith,	Penn & Reeves,	1 1 11 2 0 1 68 5 150 00
Bethany, "	" "	R H Ramsey, A J Lana, * and J T McBrayer,	R H Ramsey,	2 4 0 1 1 0 75 0 255 00
Lebanon, Cherokee Co.	Tury Town,	P M Turnor, * W B Wynne, * and M G Williams,	J A Reeves,	1 3 4 0 2 0 39 10 150 00
Mt. Pleasant, St. Clair Co.	Ashville,	T Bowlin, Jessie Hodges, and W B Neely,	J A Collins,	2 16 1 5 0 2 0 80 10 125 00
Pleasant Hill, DeKalb Co.		J Hamet, * C Stowers, and J Edwards, *	R H Ramsey,	1 2 3 1 1 0 0 12 0 100 00
		Absentees marked thus *		

PREAMBLE.

We the Churches of Jesus Christ, who have been regularly Baptised upon a profession of our faith, are convinced from a series of experience of the necessity of a combination of churches and of maintaining a correspondence for the preserving of a Christian union amongst all the churches of the same faith and order, and as we are convinced that there are a number of Baptist churches who differ from us in faith and practice, and that it is impossible to have communion where there is no union, we think it our duty to set forth a concise declaration of the faith and order upon which we intend to associate, which is as follows, (viz :)

CONSTITUTION.

1st. This association shall be known by the name of the Liberty Baptist Association.

2nd. The objects of this Association are to promote union among the children of God, their growth in grace, the salvation of sinners, and the Glory of God ; for effecting all which they are authorised to adopt the arrangements they judge proper, provided such arrangements are in accordance with the intention of the union as expressed in the preamble and directed by the word of God.

3rd. The Association shall be composed of male brethren chosen by the churches in union which they represent, who shall produce certificates of their appointment together with a statement of the numbers in their respective churches, of those baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and dead during the previous year, with the whole number in fellowship.

4th. Each church shall have the liberty of sending three delegates and for every fifty members over the first fifty one more and so on in proportion.

5th. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, (last shall be Treasurer) who shall be chosen by ballot out of the members present, who shall continue in office until a new election shall be made.

5th. After the reading of the letters from the churches, the enrolling the names of the Delegates, and the minuting of the state of each church, the constitution, declaration of faith and the bye-laws shall be read. The door shall then be opened for the admission of other churches into the union. If any such shall present themselves by letter and delegates, they shall, on satisfactory evidence of their regular formation, faith and practice be received into fellowship upon the principles of the constitution by the right hand of fellowship from the Moderator.

7th. After the reading of the constitution, declaration of faith and bye-laws (and the reception of other churches, if any apply,) the Moderator and Clerk, shall then be chosen.

8th. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order and call to its observance at any time. He shall have the privilege of leaving his seat upon putting one in his place and of engaging in debate.

9th. The Clerk shall minute the proceedings of the Association, prepare them for the press, keep a file of the printed minutes, present them at each session for the use of the Association and deliver them over to his successor. He shall also take charge of the money and property of the Association and dispose of them as the body shall direct.

10th. In the decision of any question the majority of votes shall determine the point.

11th. The Association shall recognize the entire independence of the churches as to any other head than Christ. The Association shall not assume any power over them in relation to their internal concerns but shall aid them in any consistent manner. The Association will therefore receive and act upon any queries that may be sent up by the churches and attend to any cases of difficulty among them which they cannot satisfactorily settle among themselves.

12th. Each member of the Association will be expected to be in his place at the hour of meeting on the first and each succeeding day of the sessions and remain until the dismissal of the body.

13th. As the object of this union is to promote Brotherly Love, the edification of Christians, the conversion of sinners and the glory of God, it shall be their privilege and duty to hold affectionate correspondence with other Associations and to embrace the opportunity of doing good unto all men, especially to them that are of the household of faith, as in their judgment shall seem proper.

14th. This Association shall adjourn to any time and place that they may determine upon :

15th. The churches of this Association shall send up yearly by their messengers a reasonable contribution for the printing of the Minutes, which business shall be confided in some direct person, who shall have it in charge to superintend their printing and distribution to the Associations with whom correspondence is maintained and to the churches in fellowship.

15th. As this Association is a voluntary connexion, each church in it shall have the liberty of withdrawing upon a request setting forth its reasons for such a step. At the same time itself be bound to hear and weigh any reasons that may be urged against its withdrawal, before its final separation.

17th. The Association shall have the privilege of withdrawing its connexion with any church in union which shall become disorderly, after consistent efforts shall have been made in vain to reclaim her from her errors.

18th. No alteration shall be made in this constitution, or in the declaration of faith and practice herein after set forth, except such alteration shall be passed a year previous upon the minutes, and the views of the churches obtained when if a majority of the churches and two thirds of the Association shall approve of it, the alteration shall be made.

BY-LAWS.

1st. Preparatory to the organization of the Association an Introductory sermon shall be preached by a member appointed at the previous sessions and another shall be named at the same time to perform the duty in case of the failure of the first.

2nd. This service being performed, the Moderator, or if he be absent, the oldest minister present shall open the meeting of the Association by prayer.

3rd. He shall then call for the Letters from the churches, when the delegates shall present them and take their seats in order.

4th. When the association is regularly organized as prescribed in the constitution, the correspondence with other Associations shall be called for, the Letters read and the messengers received by the right hand of fellowship from the Moderator; these messengers shall be invited to seats in the Association and the privilege of speaking on any subject before the body, but not of voting on any. Other visiting brethren may be invited to seats with the same privilege and prohibition.

5th the minutes of the last meeting of the Association shall then be read and shall form the order of business for the session. A change may however be made in this order upon special motion.

6th. Subjects not embraced in the last minutes may at the discretion of the Association be taken up at any time when there is no business directly before the body.

7th. Any subject not continued in the last minutes must be regularly brought forward by motion, which shall be seconded before it can be taken up. After this it shall be considered as properly at the disposal of the Association, unless it be withdrawn by the mover.

8th. No one shall speak oftner than three times on the same subject, except permitted by the Association. The speaker shall always rise to his feet and address the moderator.

9th. Silence and decorum shall be observed by every member of the Association whilst the body is in session, and more especially in time of debate, all personal reflections and remarks tending to wound the feelings of brethren shall be sacredly avoided.

10th. No member of the Association shall leave the house whilst the Association is in session without leave from the Moderator.

11th In order to expedite business committees shall be raised at the discretion of the Association who shall be named by the Moderator.

12th. There shall be a Circular Letter added to the minutes, for the writing of which a member shall be appointed the year previous.

13rd. The meetings of the Association shall on each day of the session be opened and closed with prayer.

14th. The minutes of each day shall be read at its close and at the opening of business after prayer on each succeeding day, when the names of delegates shall be called. And the whole minutes of the session shall be read at its close and signed by the Moderator and Clerk.

15th. Any alteration in these by-laws may be made at any meeting of the Association by two-thirds of the members present.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN: We submit for your contemplation the following reflections upon the Gospel church and its discipline:—When the Apostles, by the preaching of the word, had gathered a sufficient number of believers, it was their uniform practice, for the promotion of Christ's kingdom, in that place to form themselves into a religious society or Christian Church. Being thus associated, divine worship was carried on, Christian ordinances observed, holy discipline maintained, and the word of life, as the light, by the golden candlestick, exhibited among them our Saviour walking, applauding the good, and pointing out the evil, censuring it and holding up life and liberty to those who should overcome the evils of the present state. Let us suppose our Saviour to walk amongst our several churches in the present age as he did in Asia. We humbly trust he would find many things to approve; but we are apprehensive that he would find many to censure. Let us look closely into the discipline of the primitive churches and compare them with ours. By discipline, however, we do not mean to include the whole of the order of a christian church; but shall endeavor at this time, to confine our remarks to that part of church government which consists in a mutual watch over each other, and the course we are directed to pursue in occurrence of disorder, according to the holy scriptures. We must pruise as well as plant, if we would bear much fruit, and be Christ's disciples. One of the things applauded in the church of Christ at Ephesus was, that they could not bear those who were evil—Read 5th chapter entire. Yet we are not to suppose from hence that no imperfection whatever is an object of forbearance. If uniformity, my Brethren, be required in such a degree as that every difference in opinion or practice shall occasion a separation, the churches would always be divided into parties, which we are conscious never was intended or encouraged by the Apostle of our Lord and Saviour, and cannot now be justified in ordinary cases. A contrary practice is expressly taught us in the Epistle of Paul to the Romans—14th chapter entire. Here we are taught some excellent precepts and the cases in which they are to be exercised. An object of forbearance, however, must be one that may exist without being on occasion of dispute or wrangling in the church. It must not be to doubtful disputation. It must also respect things which do not enter into the peace and essence of God's kingdom—the leading principles of which are righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost—verses 16th and 17th. It must be something which does not destroy the word of God or which is inconsistent with the progress of pure and undefiled religion in the church or in ones own soul—verse 20th. For meat destroy not the work of God. All things in-

deed are pure but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence. In all such cases we are not to judge each other but every man's conscience is to be his judge—verse 23rd. In attending to these things which are the proper objects of Church discipline, our first concern should be to see that all our measures are aimed at the good of the party and the honor of God. Both of these ends are pointed out in the case of the Corinthian offender. All was to be done that his spirit might be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus, and to clear themselves, as a Church from being partakers of his sin. We sometimes find Brethren among us who, under the name of tenderness, are for neglecting all wholesome discipline. Their language is:—He that is without sin, let him cast the first stone; my Brother hath fallen to day, and I may fall to morrow. The spirit, when found in individuals, is frequently known to impede the due execution of the laws of Christ. Such, for a time, was the spirit of the Corinthians. But when they were brought to a proper sense of things what carefulness it wrought in them, yea, what a clearing of themselves. In opposing the extreme of false tenderness, others are in danger of falling into unchristian severity. This spirit will make the worst of everything, and lead men to convert the censures of the Church into weapons of private revenge. In all of our admonitions, regard should be had to the character and age of the party. Ministers as well as other members, may be in fault, and a fault that may require to be noticed. But let him be told of it in a manner that will correspond with his office. Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father, and the younger men as brethren—1st Timothy, 5th chapter, 1st verse.

In the due execution of Christian discipline, there are many things to be done by the members of Churches individually. If we be faithful to each other, there will be but few occasions for public censure. Improprieties of conduct, neglect of duty, and declensions in the power of Godliness, are the proper subject of Pastoral admonition. This is one essential branch of his office, to rebuke and exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine; 2d Timothy, 4th chapter, 2 v. Nor is this work confined to pastors alone; Christians are directed to admonish each other, Romans 15th, 14th. Indeed, there are many things which a wise and affectioned people will be concerned to take upon themselves, lest a prejudice should be contracted against the ministry which may prevent its good effects. This is peculiarly necessary in the settling of differences in which [some times] whole families are interested, in which it is very difficult to avoid the suspicion of partiality. In all cases of personal offences, the rule laid down in the 18th chapter of Matthew's Gospel ought to be attended to, and no such offence ought to be admitted before a Church till this precept of Christ has been first complied with by the party or parties concerned. For a just man will not be willing unnecessarily to make his brother a public example. The scriptures give peculiar encouragement to these personal and private attempts. If any of you do err from the truth and one convert him, let him know "that he who converteth a sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death and hide a multitude of sins." James 5th chapter 19th and 20th verses. In case of evil reports, where things are said of a brother in ear hearing which if true, must effect his christian character and the purity of the church, it cannot be right to go on to report it, love will not lead to this. Many reports are unfounded, or if true in the main, they may have been aggravated, or there may be circumstances attending the case, which, if fully understood, would make things look or appear very different from the way in which they have been represented. No time, therefore, should be lost, ere we enquire at the hand of our Brother, or apply to an officer of the church who may conduct it with greater propriety. There are cases of a more public nature still, in which much of the peace and happiness of the church depends upon the conduct of its members in their individual capacity. The charge given by the apostle to Romans, 16th. Chapter 17th, 18th, though applicable to a church, yet seems to be rather addressed

to the individuals who compose it. Now I beseech you, {Brethren, mark them who cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them, for they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

The characters here to be avoided, appear to be persons, whose object it is to set up a party in the church of which they may be the heads or leaders such men are found at one time or other in churches, Mark them saith the apostle, and avoid striking in with their dividing measure. How shall we behave towards members who are under the censure of the church, if they still continue in a state of impenitence, persist in their sin or be irreconciled to the churche's proceedings with them. It is of the utmost consequence that every member should act a uniform part towards them and avoid everything that is expressive of connivance at their conduct—read 1 Corinthians, 5th chapt. 11th verse. If any that is called a brother be a fornicator or covetous, or an Idolator, or railer, or drunkard, or extortioner, we must not keep company with such an one, uot to eat. And if we should act contrary to this rule and carry it freely to an offender, as if nothing had taken place, will it not render the censure of the church of none effect, we taink it will. We must act in concert or we may as well do nothing. Members who violate this rule are partakers of other men's sins, and deserve the Rebukes of the church, for counteracting its measures. Brethren, are there any such things amongst us, search and consider. Such things ought not to be. Let it be our concerns to obey the laws of Christ and leave him to support his own cause ; and if it sink by fulfilling his commandments, let it sink ; he will not censure us for not supporting the ark with unhallowed hands.

Finally, brethren, have a watchful eye upon the stae of the church—discourage whispering, backbiting, and jealousies—frown on tale bearers, and give no ear to their tales—nip contentions in the bud—adjust differences in civil matters among yourselves—bring together, at an early period, those in whom misconception and distrust have begun to operate, ere ill opinion ripen into settled dislike. By a frank and timely explanation in the presence of a common friend, that may be healed in an hour, which, if permitted to proceed, a series of years cannot eradicate. For the free circulation of the blood and the proper discharge of all animal function are not more necessary to the health of the body, than good discipline is to the prosperity of the christian church in a neighboreood, where the Gospel is preached, and the ordinances of Christ administered (in their purity.) It is a temple reared for God, in which he designs to record his name to meet with his humble worshippers and to bless them.

We have seen churches of this description in the midst of a spiritual prosperity, edifying one another in love, and gathering souls to the Redeemer's standard—all in a little time blasted by some unhappy event that has thrown them into disorder. One of the members, it may be, has acted unworthy ; he is reproved ; his friends and acquaintances take his side ; discipline is interrupted ; the church is divided into parties ; hard things are said on both sides ; the bond of love is broken ; tender minds are grieved, and retire ; worship is but thinly attended, and the enjoyment of it vanished ; God's friends mourn in secret, and the enemies of the Cross of Chrst triumph, saying " so would we have it !" Truly, it is a serious thing to occasion the ruin of a Church of Christ. If any man defile the Temple of God, him shall God destroy. Finally, Brethren, farewell ; be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of Love and Peace shall be with you. AMEN.

WILLIAM C. MYNATT.

MINUTES

OF THE

ELEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION,

OF THE

CHEROKEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

CEDAR BLUFF CHURCH,

CHEROKEE COUNTY, ALA.:

Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in September 1852.



Printed at the office of the "Sunny South."

JACKSONVILLE, ALA.:

1853.

MINUTES.

1st. The Delegates of the Cherokee Baptist Association, assembled at Cedar Bluff Church, Cherokee County, on Friday the 27th Sept. A. D. 1852. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder R. H. Ramsey, from the General Epistle of James, 1st Chapter and 25th verse.

2d. Read the letters from the Churches.

3d. Constitution and By-Laws called for and read.

4th. Received to membership the newly constituted churches, Valley Head, DeKalb county, Holly Springs, Mt. Bethel and Providence, in Cherokee county, delegates invited to seats.

5th. On motion it was ordered by the Association, that the reports of two committees from the several churches, to the Pleasant Grove church, with the petition of the minority to the majority, so called, of that church, be spread upon the minutes. (See Appendix C. P. C.)

6th. Elected Elder W. C. Mynatt, Moderator, and F. M. Hardwick, Clerk.

Association adjourned to 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

SATURDAY, Sept. 18. Prayer by Bro. Wilson.

7th. Called the roll and marked absentees.

8th. Received correspondence from the following bodies, Tallassehatchee minutes by Eld. W. M. Wilson; from Coosa Bro. Win. Morgan, and renewed our correspondence with that body.

9th. Appointed the following committees, *viz*: *On preaching*: Wynne, Cobb, Hester, from the body, and Harkrider and Hawkins, from the church. *On the state of Religion*: A. N. Cunningham, G. J. Williamson and T. N. Appleton. *On domestic missions*: Hopper, Smith and Wynne. *On documents*: Harkrider, G. Appleton, and Bowlin. *On Sabbath-schools*: Hardwick, Force and Hodges. *On Temperance*: Johnson, Ramsey and Morgan. *On finance*: Cobb, High and McBreyer. *On Associational Library*: Hopper, Hardwick, Golightly, T. N. Appleton, and Wynne.

10th. Appointed messengers to bodies in correspondence, to Tallassehatchee, Elders Renfro and Reeves, Hardwick and Harkrider, and Wynne to write. To Coosa, Elders Renfro, Mynatt and Fields, G. J. Williamson and High, Hopper to write.

11th. Ordered that this Association be divided into two districts, the Lookout mountain to be the line; Mt Pleasant, St. Clair, attached to the second district and Holly Springs to the first.

12th. Appointed Union meetings, to wit: 1st District, at Unity church, Friday before the 4th Sabbath in July 1853. 2d District, at Mt. Harmony, DeKalb county, Friday before the 2d Sabbath in July 1853.

13th. Appointed Bro. J. D. Renfro to preach the next introductory sermon, Eld. W. C. Mynatt his alternate.

14th. Appointed Eld. J. A. Reeves to preach a Missionary sermon on Sabbath, 11 o'clock, at our next Association, El. J. A. Reeves, alternate,

15th. Appointed Eld. W. C. Mynatt, Renfro, J. Lawrence, G. Appleton and Cunningham delegates to the Baptist State Convention, Hardwick to write.

16th. Ordered that 500 copies of these minutes be printed, and the Clerk superintend the printing.

17th. Appointed distributing agents: 1st district, Wynne and High; 2d district, McBreyer and T. N. Appleton.

18th. Appointed Executive Committees: 1st district, Wynne, Cobb, Harkrider, Golightly and McGhee. 2d district, J. M. Ramsey, Johnson, Hodges, T. N. Appleton and J. T. Morgan.

19th. Ordered that the statements of Bro. Jas. Ramsey in relation to the course of the Pleasant Hill and Bethany churches, DeKalb County, in recommending Bro. R. H. Ramsey to take charge of the members excluded from the Pleasant Grove church, as a church, and as their Pastor, be received, and said Churches released from any further censure of this body.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock, Monday morning.

On Sat-bath the stand was occupied by Elders J. D. Hopper, Mynatt and Reintro, who preached in the order of their names, to a very large and well ordered congregation, the word spoken seemingly had a salutary effect among the people.

Monday 20th Sept. Prayer by the Moderator.

20th Received Reports of Committees, viz :

On the state of Religion, - - - - - Exhibit R.

On Domestic mission, - - - - - do D.

On Sabbath Schools, - - - - - do S.

On Temperance, - - - - - do T.

On Correspondence, - - - - - do C.

On Finance, (See statistics) and - - - - - do F.

On Associational Library, - - - - - do L.

21st. Read and adopted letters to corresponding Associations.

23d. Read and adopted the report of the Executive committee of the 1st district, (Exhibit E.)

23d. Read and adopted El. J. A. Reeves' report, (Exhibit B.)

24th. The Association then adjourned to meet with the Union church, DeKalb county, on Friday before the 3d Sabbath in September 1853.

W. C. MYNATTE, Moderator.

F. M. HARDWICK, Clerk.

APPENEIX R.

WE your committee to whom was submitted the State of Religion in our bounds, have had the same under consideration, some portions of our Association complain of coldness, which we think is owing in a great degree to a want of duty on the part of the Churches. Those portions that have had the Home Missionary cause in operation, bring good news from its effects, and by way of encouragement, we would recommend that the churches be more liberal in their contributions, that the cause may be more fully carried into effect. Respectfully submitted.

T. N. APPLETON, Chairman.

APPENEIX D.

YOUR committee to whom was referred the subject of Domestic Missions, beg leave to submit the following report. We have given the subject all the attention the limited time allowed us would admit of, and from what has been done within the last year, in the bounds of our Association, and from the spirit manifested among the brethren, we believe that a lively interest is now manifest generally with regard to this important subject, and all that is necessary for a complete triumph in the cause is a little more energy on the part of the several executive committees appointed at the present session of your body. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. D. HOPPER, Chairman.

APPENDIX S.

YOUR committee to whom was referred the subject of Sabbath Schools, report. We have reasons to thank God for the aid of missionary opera-

tions in the bounds of our Association the present year, in consequence of which there has been several Sabbath Schools built up, which tend to the moralizing the community, the Schools are at present in a flourishing condition, and we are satisfied their missionary operations is the great lever to the establishment of such Schools, and we would therefore recommend to the Association, the necessity of keeping up our missionary operations, and we would further recommend the necessity of the ministers having charge of the churches, to aid in establishing Sabbath Schools.

All of which is herewith submitted, F. M. HARDWICK, Ch'm.

APPENDIX T.

We your committee to whom was submitted the subject of Temperance, have had the same under consideration, and have to report, from what knowledge we have, that the cause is rather on the decline, and why? because the churches maintain to too great an extent the practice of intemperance, such as tolerating the daily use of intoxicating liquor as a beverage, and we therefore offer the following resolutions:

1st. *Resolved*, That the use of Alcoholic drinks, as a beverage, is an immorality against which the churches should exert their influence.

2d. *Resolved*, That the traffic in Alcoholic liquors, to be used as a common drink is a violation of the law of Christ, and should not be tolerated by the churches.

3d. *Resolved*, That while it is the duty of all the ministers of Christ to urge on their churches, and congregations the principles of the Gospel relating to this subject: This Association does affectionately recommend that each of the Pastors preach a discourse on Temperance at some regular meeting during the next Associational year. All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. P. JOHNSON, Ch'm.

APPENDIX C.

The committee on Correspondence beg leave to make the following report. We have carefully examined the documents presented by the Eld. Wm. M. Wilson, from the Tallassehatchee Association, in which we find much to approve in your labors of love, and the Coosa Baptist, a messenger without minutes or letter; we were glad to see brother Morgan, your messenger, who was invited to a seat in our council. But, brethren, we have been made to inquire of ourselves, what was the object that first pointed out this interchange of opinion with our brethren of sister Associations? And upon reflection we believe that if the present plan of Correspondence is kept up that we shall fall far short of its original intention; we are of opinion that in sending delegates to correspond with our sisters, that they should be ministers of the Gospel, sound in the faith, and by this means an interchange of views could and would be had upon the true doctrines of the Gospel, and we request our sisters, with whom we are in correspondence, to send brethren of this character, and that they remain with us until the labors of our session shall close. All of which is respectfully submitted.

G. HARRISER, Ch'm.

APPENDIX F.

Your committee on Finance beg leave to make the following report, viz:

For Minutes,	\$15 55	For Home Mission—from the Executive
" Association purpos's,	7 95	committee; first district, Cedar Bluff
" minutes to the convention,	2 40	Church, as follows:
" Southern Board,	14 00	G. J. Williamson, \$5 00
" do public collection,	32 00	W. B. West, 5 00
	71 90	John Lawrence, 1 00
		G. W. Wester, 1 00

John Long,	1 00	Mrs L Blackwell,	1 00
John James,	1 00	James McIlwain,	00
W. Sparks,	50	Miss M McIlwain,	50
John Crews,	25	Edmund Hurly, sr.	1 00
J P Crews,	25	Samuel Lacky,	1 00
W P Reed,	1 00	J A L Lacky,	2 50
George Harkrider,	5 00	Thos Hurly,	50
H Turner,	2 00	W P Underwood,	50-25 40
A Barber,	50		
E S Hardwick,	50		
F M Hardwick,	5 00		\$172 20
Lesel Turner,	1 00	Amount from Yellow Creek, surplus	
J D Renfro,	1 00	of the last year,	5 00
A G Whit,	1 00		
James Lawrence,	1 00		
A Hawkins,	2 00-35 00		
<i>Mill Creek Church.</i>			
H O Golightly,	5 00	Executive committee allows	
James Fields,	5 00	Bro. Fields,	\$200 00
W S Pitts,	2 00	Amt. paid him,	102 70
John Rush,	2 00		
F Rush,	5 00	due Bro. Fields,	97 70
E G Bell,	2 00		
John Pucket,	1 00	Committee hand Clerk,	23 50
W Bell,	2 00	“ paid Bro. Mynatt, S B	46 70
Jas Hayett,	1 00	“ “ “ minutes B S C	2 40
R. Morrison,	1 00	Received by Executive Com-	
W McDaniel,	1 00	mittee from Bro. Fieds,	105 30
John Wilcox,	1 00		
F S Elum,	1 00		
James Elum,	1 00		
J B Elum,	2 00-32 00		
<i>Providence.</i>			
A J Price,	2 00	Donation of Union Church for Domestic	
E P Shyrcy,	50	Mission; 3d district:	
Enoch Shyrcy,	1 00	A B Smith,	\$3 00
W Witt,	50	Isaac Teague,	5 00
J M Witt,	50	James A Reeves,	5 00
John Witt,	50	Genuma Stephens,	2 00
W Cook,	25	John Coats,	3 00
Robt Turner,	25	Isaac Reed,	1 00
J Lay,	40	P H Evans,	25
R Connel,	25	Jon Campbell,	50
W Shockley,	25-6 60	L P Ward,	1 00
		Henry Sybort,	1 00
		Washington King,	1 00-22 75
<i>Holly Spring.</i>		Donation of Pleasant Hill Church for Do-	
John Day,	1 00	mestic Mission; 3d District:	
Mrs Sarah Oriar,	50-1 50	C A Mulins,	1 00-1 00
		Donations of Lebanon Church for Domestic	
		Mission; 3d distric :	
<i>Unity.</i>		P M Turner,	2 00
J B High,	5 00	J J Clanton,	2 00
C Puckett,	1 00	M Thompson,	1 00
Thos Blackwoll,	50	L Thompson,	1 00
J E Bradly,	50	Martha Coats,	50
E T Willingham,	2 00	W B Wylne,	1 00
Jas Grogan,	1 00	M G Williams,	2 50-10 00
Jno Little,	1 00		
Daniel Blackwell,	50		
W H Grogan,	1 00		
C C Ridings,	1 00		
J Coffman,	1 00		
H Hurly,	1 00	3d District paid Bro. Reeves,	33 75
Mrs M Bankston,	50		25 00
Mrs A Cobb,	20		
Mrs E Pucket,	50		
Miss E Coffinan,	25		
Miss N J Bradly,	20		
Mrs E Willingham,	25	Surplus paid over to the Ex. Com. of	
		the 2d district,	8 75
		All of which is respectfully submitted,	
		W. D. COBB, Ch'm.	

APPENDIX L.

Your committee to whom was referred the subject of an Associational Library, beg leave to make the following report: Believing as we do, that a well instructed mind will lead to a greater degree of perfection in the knowledge and grace of God, and knowing the great want of denominational works among our members. We deem it advisable that a system be adopted for the dissemination of instruction amongst our body.

J. D. HOPPER, Ch'm.

RESOLVED, That a committee of 13 be appointed to suggest a plan for said Book concern, and to carry it into effect, under the direction of this body.

The committee consists of the following brethren, viz. W C Mynatt, G J Williamson, F M Harwick, G Harkrider, Wm B Watt, Wm B Wynne, J B High, C P Johnson, T N Appleton, H O Golightly, E Bell, John Lawrence, D A Heifner.

APPENDIX E.

The Executive committee appointed to superintend the Domestic Mission, of the first district, beg leave to report: That they employed Bro. Jas. Fields to occupy the fields in our bounds at \$200 00 for the year. He reports to us that he travel'd 1052 miles; preached 134 sermons; delivered 150 exhortations; 135 family lectures; baptised 22 persons; constituted 3 churches; established 2 Sabbath Schools:—he also states that the situation of our district calls aloud for the Home mission to be kept up and increased, and that the newly constituted churches should be provided for, and that there are two other destitute portions in our bounds that very much require missionary labor. All of which your committee cordially approve, and is herewith submitted.

F. M. HARDWICK, Ch'm.

APPENDIX B.

Report of labor done in the 3d district under appointment of the executive committee of the 2d district in 1852, commenced on the 4th day of April, travelled 198 miles; preached 16 sermons, delivered 7 exhortations, made 17 family visits, in connection with visits of sick families, making two months of labor done. Dear brethren, I hope the work will be continued in this very destitute section of our Association. Respectfully submitted.

JAMES A. REEVES.

Appendix C.

The State of Alabama, DeKalb County Alabama.

To the Pleasant Grove Church: your Committee to whom was submitted the records of your Church book, back to the August meeting, and having corroborating testimony before us, pertaining to the same, beg leave to report the proceedings had thereon.

1st. The committee met, appointed Bro. G. Harkrider, Moderator, and F. M. Hardwick, Secretary.

2d. The committee is of opinion that the Churches of our order is an independent body, and has the right to call a meeting of its members, at any time, to transact its business, where it is actually necessary, and in the case before us we think it was necessary, and we therefore justify the church in its act on the 4th Sept. 1851.

3d. We have further examined into the charges preferred by your church against Bro. Jas. Mitchell, with the testimony of several of your brethren, in which we feel bound to justify the church in so doing.

Dear brethren, we have had the whole matter before us, which was by you submitted, and after investigation, we unanimously justify the church in all the proceedings had by you, as a church, relative to your call meeting, and the charges preferred against brother James Mitchell; we appreciate your conduct, as a church. We hope the Lord will visit you in his goodness, and set all things right among you as brethren. All of which is herewith submitted.

George Harkrider, F M Hardwick, A Hawkis, O Hester, H Hurly, A B Smith, W S Pitts, C Pucket, C P Johnson, S J Williams, Wm Gravé, Samuel Miller.—Committee.

Appendix P.

To that number of Brethren and Sisters of Pleasant Grove Church, who have sustained brother James M. Mitchell, voting his justification under charge preferred against him, (the said Mitchell,) at the called meeting, 4th Sept. 1851.

Brother and Sisters:—We believe you have erred in so doing; therefore we humbly

ask you to aid us in calling for another committee, from eight churches, in our Association, three members from each church, to meet the church at Pleasant Grove on Friday before the 2d Sabbath in March next, to investigate the decision of the December conference, upon brother Mitchell's case. We hope you will religiously comply with our wishes, as the aggrieved party, believing it will be for the glory of God, and safety of the church. If our request and petition is refused, and cannot be heard or granted by you for the good of the cause of Christ that is bleeding at every pore, We do by these presence and our names assigned, humbly say to you, that we cannot fellowship you, in your course of discipline in sustaining Bro. Mitchell in his conduct under charge. Therefore we withdraw our fellowship from you, as Brethren and Sisters in disorder, retaining the Constitution and By-Laws of the church, and papers and records thereto belonging—claiming ourselves to be the Church of Christ, at Pleasant Grove :

NAMES.—Males—G Appleton, Harris Brock, Washington Martain, Van Hall, E P Reed, T N Appleton, Nathan Morgan, John Young, T H Templeton, Aaron Hall, J Rook.

Females.—Nancy Brock, Elvina Brock, Hannah Martain, Mary Sammons, Malinda Sammons, Mary Hill, Charlotte E Talbert, Elizabeth F Talbert, Elizabeth Brock, Elmira Brock, Mary Brock, Eveline Brock, Mariah Brock, Teeny Harrison, Anna Reed, Catharine Barksdale, Matilda P Appleton, Sarah E Smith, C O Sims, Canjada E Denham, D A Fields, Susan Morgan, Sarah Reed, Susan Reed, Nancy Porter, Jane Porter, Cordelia Porter, Eliazbeth C French, Martha H Templeton, Sarah Masters, Louisa Roberts, Elizabeth Newman, Sarah Rogers, Silva Rook.

Appendix C.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, DEKALB COUNTY.

To the Pleasant Grove Church: We your committee to whom was submitted the Records of your Church Book, have carefully examined the same, as far as relating to the case in point, with regard to the action of the church in the case of Brother J. M. Mitchell, at the December term, 1851:

Resolved, That we, your committee, believe that Pleasant Grove Church has acted in bad faith, in releasing Bro. Jas. M. Mitchell from the charges preferred against him in September, and ratified by the committee that met in November, because we believe the discipline, as taught in the word of God, has been utterly disregarded, and set aside as we conceive, by the church in that act.

2. We believe that that part of the church—claiming to be the majority—did wrong in refusing to reconsider the act of the December meeting, and also in refusing to call in another committee.

3. We believe that if a majority had granted the petition of the minority, it would have released them, and there would have been no separation in the church at Pleasant Grove.

4. We your committee believe that the majority have departed from the discipline, as taught in the new Testament, and as such are in disorder, and we also believe that the minority has acted agreeable to the true discipline, and consequently they are the true church. Whereunto we, as your committee, have signed our names:

Sampson Darnell, Phillip Turner, J B High, Charles C Ridings, M G Williams, C P Johnson, E T Goggins, O Hester, A B Smith, W S Whitten, Daniel Blackwell, G W Crow, S Stalldrop, J F Morgan, D A Heifner. G. HARKRIDER, Ch'm.

A. HAWKINS, Sec'y.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES.	NEAREST P. O.	Names of Delegates.	
		By whom Supplied.	
FIRST DISTRICT.			
Lebanon, Cherokee County, Alabama.	Turkeytown, W S Whinton, D A Heiner and S Darnal,	Mynatt,	
Yellow Creek, do	Leesburg, do	do	1 18 3 1 1
Cedar Bluff, do	Cedar Bluff, do	do	4 9 2
Unity, do	do	do	2 3 7 2
Providence, do	do	do	4 19 4 8
Mill Creek, do	do	do	13 3
Mt. Bethel, do	do	do	1 6 9
Holly Spring, do	do	do	1 4 6 6
Mt. Pleasant, St. Clair County, Ala.	do	do	11 11 4 5
Bethany, DeKalb	do	do	25 25 60
Pleasant Hill, do	do	do	
Union, do	do	do	
Providence, do	do	do	
Pleasant Grove, do	do	do	
Mt. Harmony, do	do	do	
Antioch, do	do	do	
Monticello, do	do	do	
Valley Head, do	do	do	
TOTAL.			
COLORED.			
WHITE.			
DEAD.			
RESTORED.			
EXCLUDED.			
DIS. BY LET.			
REC. BY LET.			
BAPTIZED.			
S. OF MT.			